CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving video data at an application program;

transmitting the video data to one or more memory buffers

decrypting the video data; and

monitoring page table entries corresponding to the memory buffers to determine whether a second application program has accessed the memory buffers.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

the application program calling an interface upon receiving the video data;

receiving the video data at the interface; and

transmitting the video data to the memory buffers.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the video data is stored at the memory buffers in an encrypted format.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

transmitting the video data from the memory buffers to the interface;

transmitting the video data from the interface to a decryption module; and

decrypting the video data at the decryption module;

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising verifying, at the decryption module, a digital signature of the interface prior to decrypting the video data.

6. The method of claim 4 further comprising the decryption module modifying the page table entries to clear access bits corresponding to the memory buffers.

7. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

transmitting the decrypted video data to the interface; and

transmitting the decrypted video data from the interface to the video decoder.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a notification at the decryption module to terminate the monitoring of the page table entries; and

terminating the monitoring of the page table entries.

9. A computer system comprising:

an application that receives data content;

a memory device that stores the data content;

a decoder that decodes the content; and

a decryption module that decrypts the data content, and monitors access to the memory device to determine if memory buffers storing the data content have been accessed prior to the decoding of the data content.

10. The computer system of claim 9 wherein the decryption module monitors the memory buffers by observing the state of a corresponding access bit in the memory device page table entries.

11. The computer system of claim 10 wherein the decryption module is tamper resistant to prevent modification.

12. The computer system of claim 9 further comprising an interface coupled to the application, the decoder and the decryption module.

13. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the interface receives the data content in an encrypted format.

14. An article of manufacture including one or more computer readable media that embody a program of instructions, wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a processing unit, causes the processing unit to:

receive video data at an application program;

transmit the video data to one or more memory buffers

decrypt the video data; and

monitor page table entries corresponding to the memory buffers to determine whether a second application program has accessed the memory buffers.

15. The article of manufacture of claim 14 , wherein the program of

instructions, when executed by a processing unit, further causes:

the application program to call an interface upon receiving the video data;

receiving the video data at the interface; and

transmitting the video data to the memory buffers.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 15 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a processing unit, further causes the processor:

transmit the video data from the memory buffers to the interface;

transmit the video data from the interface to a decryption module; and

decrypt the video data at the decryption module;

17. The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a processing unit, further causes the processor to verify, at the decryption module, a digital signature of the interface prior to decrypting the video data.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a processing unit, further causes the decryption module to modify the page table entries to clear access bits corresponding to the memory buffers.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a processing unit, causes the processor to:

transmit the decrypted video data to the interface; and

transmit the decrypted video data from the interface to the video decoder.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 14 , wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a processing unit, further causes the processor to:

receive a notification at the decryption module to terminate the monitoring of the page table entries; and

terminate the monitoring of the page table entries.